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PALESTINE REFUGEE PROBLEM:

Resettlement of Palestine Refugees in the Jezireh Area, Syria.

This paper contains extracts from a memorandum prepared by a British national who is serving as Agricultural Advisor to the Iraq Irrigation Commission Development.

Although his estimate of the number of refugees who might be accommodated in the Jezireh varies between 100,000 and 245,000, he considers that it would be unwise to plan on more than 150,000. One difficulty in making an accurate estimate is the absence of adequate statistics on the amount of culturable waste land fad with sufficient rainfall to allow settlement.

Any settlement program should be a combination of mechanized and animal agriculture. One of the greatest difficulties in settlement will be the question of land ownership, particularly with respect to acquired rights of certain tribes and sheikhs to lands in the Jezireh. Practical estimates of costs and time can only be obtained by sending a properly constituted mission to study the Jezireh.

The paper also recommends that consideration should be given to the possibility of settling refugees in the Homs-Hama area, which is sparsely populated in relation to the culturable land available.

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